EXTRACTS FROM THE MINUTES

OF

THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Reformed Presbyterian Synod

OF IRELAND.

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REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN SYNOD

OF IRELAND

AT ITS

ANNUAL MEETING, HELD IN LONDONDERRY,

26TH JUNE, 1865.

BELFAST:

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1865.

EXTRACTS FROM MINUTES, &c.

SESSION I.

LONDONDERRY, MONDAY, 26TH JUNE, 1865—SEVEN O'CLOCK, P.M.

MET, the SYNOD of the REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH in IRELAND; and, after a discourse by the Moderator, from 1 Thess. ii. 8—"So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the Gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us"—was constituted with prayer.

When the roll was called, the following Ministers and Ruling Elders were found present, viz.:—

The REV. JAMES P. SWEENY, MODERATOR.

OF THE NORTHERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	RULING ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Rev. Professor Dick	.....	Kellswater.
„ James A. Smyth ..	Samuel Stewart	Drimbolg.
„ Wm. Toland.....	John Henry, sen.	Kilraughts.
„ John Hart.....	William Kennedy	Ballylaggan.
.....	.....	Ballymoney.
„ J. D. Houston	James M'Fall	Coleraine.
.....	.....	Ringrash.
.....	.....	Cloughmills.
.....	James M'Alister.....	Garvagh.

OF THE WESTERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	RULING ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Rev. J. P. Sweeny.....	James Glenn ..... / J. Clarke (alternate)..	Faughan.
„ James Kennedy	.....	Newtownlimavady.
.....	.....	Bready.
„ R. Nevin.....	Samuel Stevenson....	Londonderry.
.....	.....	Convoy.

OF THE SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	RULING ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Rev. A. Savage	.....	Ballenon.
,, Thomas Dick.....	....	Bailiesmill.
,, Gawin Douglas	John Carson	Ballybay.
,, George Lillie.....	John Henry, jun. ..,..	Fairview.
.....	Isaac Barr	Newry.
.....	.....	Rathfriland.
,, Samuel Simms	.....	Loughbrickland.
.....	.....	Ballylane.
,, W. S. Ferguson	.....	Grange.
.....	.....	Dromore.
.....	.....	Dublin.
.....	.....	Lisdonnan.
,, Robert Allen	.....	.....

OF THE EASTERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	RULING ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Rev. T. Houston, D.D....	Wm John Kane.....	Knockbracken.
,, W. Russell.....	.....	Ballyclare.
,, John Newell, D.D...	.....	Newtownards.
,, J. A. Chancellor....	Andrew Gray	Belfast.
.....	Thomas Cleland.....	Killinchy.
.....	.....	Manchester.
.....	.....	Larne.

I. It was reported by the Clerk of the Southern Presbytery that Mr. Thomas C. Britton had been ordained recently to the pastoral charge of the congregation of Newry. Mr. Britton was not present, but his name was, by order, inserted on the roll.

II. The Rev. Gawin Douglas was unanimously chosen to be Moderator for the ensuing year, and took the chair vacated by Mr. Sweeny.

III. It was resolved that Synod should meet on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at 11 o'clock—other mornings at 10; adjourning at 3 P.M.; resuming at 6 on the first two days; Thursday at 5, and continuing in Session till 9, or longer, as occasion may require.

IV. The Clerks of Presbyteries were appointed a Committee on Bills and Overtures, and to prepare an Order of Business—to meet to-morrow morning at 9.30.

V. Mr. Smyth was nominated to conduct Devotional Exercises to-morrow morning; and it was ruled that, in future, the Court should be called to order by the Moderator, and the roll called before devotional exercises.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION II.

Tuesday morning, 11 *o'clock.*

After devotional exercises, conducted by the Rev. J. A. Smyth, Synod resumed.

The following Ministers and Ruling Elders, not present when the Court was constituted, appeared, and had their names added to the roll, viz.:—Rev. James Brown; Rev. Thomas Hart; Mr. John Duncan, Elder from Kellswater; Mr. John Nevin, Elder from Ballymoney; Mr. James Martin, Elder from Bailiesmill; Mr. Wm. Moore, Elder from Newtownlimavady; Mr. James Armstrong, Elder from Bready; and Mr. Alexander Storey, Elder from Convoy.

VI. The Rev. W. Anderson, of Loanhead, and the Rev. R. Wallace, of Glasgow, being present, were invited by the Moderator to a seat in Court, as consultative members, which they accepted. They handed in an attested extract from minutes of proceedings of the Reformed Presbyterian Synod of Scotland, appointing them, in conjunction with Mr. Joseph M'Quaker, Ruling Elder, a deputation to this Synod. It was arranged that they should be requested to address the Court to-morrow evening, at 7 o'clock.

VII. The Clerks of Synod and of the Northern Presbytery were appointed a Committee to draw up a minute in reference to the demise of the Rev. W. J. Stavely, D.D., to report at a future Session. Ultimately, the following was adopted, viz.:—

"Synod take the earliest opportunity afforded them as a Court in the providence of God, after the removal from this world of their beloved and venerated father, the Rev. W. J. Stavely, D.D., to express their sentiments in respect to this solemnizing event.

"Dr. Stavely was honoured of his Divine Master in being enabled to witness a good confession before many witnesses for a period lengthened out beyond the ordinary span allotted to ministers of the Gospel, having actually entered upon the sixty-first year of his ministry before his departure; and his testimony was ever borne with pre-eminent ability and fidelity. The great suavity, urbanity, and gravity of his manners and deportment gave him an influence wielded by few, and this was ever exerted on behalf of all that was true, pure, holy, lovely, and of good report. In private he walked with his God. The discharge of the varied duties of the pastorate was attended to with great assiduity. His pulpit exhibitions were remarkably characterized by clearness, fulness of doctrinal statement, faithful and pointed application of the truth to the conscience, eloquence, and power. His attachment to the distinctive principles of our Covenanted Testimony, was of the most thoroughly intelligent kind, long-tried, and sincere. His presence will long be missed in our Church courts, where his opinions, suggestions, and counsels were ever regarded as most valuable; and where his venerable aspect, even when advancing years prevented him from taking his wonted active part in proceedings, was looked upon with the most affectionate interest, and had its own silent but beneficial effect. After manifold labours in the vineyard of the Lord, he has been gathered to his fathers in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in in his season. He has rested from his labours, and his works do follow him. Our fathers, where are they? and the prophets, do they live for ever?

"Synod desire to improve the dispensation, by seeing in it a call to redeem time, and to work while it is day, before the night come when no man can work."

VIII. The next meeting of Synod was appointed to be held in Belfast on the last Monday in June, 1866, at 7 o'clock, P.M. Dr. Newell to preach on an evening during the Sessions of Synod.

IX. Dr. Houston having intimated to Synod that the Rev. Dr. Morgan had handed to him a copy of his recent work on "The Scripture Testimony to the Holy Spirit," to be presented to each of the Ministers of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in this country, the Synod thereupon tendered their best thanks to the Rev. Dr. Morgan, for this valuable gift.

X. Dr. Newell, as Clerk of Commission, read a copy of a letter dated 19th May last, which had been sent in name of Commission to the American Synod, in reply to theirs of the 28th March, 1864. An explanation was given, that circumstances prevented the letter being sent sooner than the 20th

May, when it was too late for the last meeting of the American Synod. Synod highly approved of the letter.

XI. The Rev. Andrew Stevenson, D.D., of New York, being present, was invited to a seat in Court.

XII. It was resolved that all Elders attending this Synod be required to bring written commissions from the Sessions which they represent.

XIII. A proposal being made to introduce an improved mode of electing Synod's Moderator, it was agreed to take the subject under consideration at next meeting of Synod.

XIV. It was moved and adopted, that Presbyteries report the licensure of Preachers to the meeting of Commission following the date of such licensure, and that the Commission be authorized to distribute their services among the several Presbyteries, as there may seem to be necessity.

XV. Synod enjoined upon Presbyteries to require the Records of Sessions to be brought up for inspection at every May meeting of Presbytery, and that they insert the result of such inspection in their annual report to Synod. Moreover, that Clerks of Presbyteries be required to lay the Records of their several Presbyteries on Synod's table immediately after the constituting of the Court, to be referred to a Committee of Synod for examination.

XVI. All documents to be brought before Synod are required to be put into the hands of the Clerk of Synod not later than the first day of Synod's meeting.

XVII. The Committee on the Code of Discipline reported that some attention had been paid to the subject of preparing a digest of order and discipline for the use of the Church, but they had not yet such a digest in a state to submit to Synod. The Committee was continued, with instructions to use all diligence in having it completed as soon as possible.

Messrs. Joseph Clarke, Samuel Stevenson, and Andrew Gray were appointed a Committee to procure funds for bearing the expenses connected with the preparation of the Code.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION III.

Tuesday Afternoon, 6 o'clock.

Synod resumed.

XVIII. Dr. Newell introduced the Rev. J. M. Willson, of Alleghany, Pa., who gave in a commission as a delegate from the Reformed Presbyterian Synod in the United States of North America, and was invited to a seat in Synod. It was arranged that, should time permit, the brethren from America shall be requested to address the Court to-morrow evening, after the deputation from Scotland.

XIX. The subject of the Aged Ministers' Fund, which had been entered upon before the hour of adjournment, was resumed. The interim Treasurer reported that the increase to the Fund during the past year amounted to £46 6s. 1d., including £28 13s. 4d. of interest on deposits in Bank, making the nett amount of the Fund at present £925 19s. 2d. Synod being assured that, so soon as the Church made up the amount of £1,000, another £1,000 would be added to it by a generous member, it was agreed to remit the business to the General Committee of Management, with instructions to adopt such measures as may be necessary to enable them to collect all remaining contributions to this Fund before the meeting of Synod's Commission in January next, and to report progress to said meeting of Commission.

XX. Professor Dick moved, and Mr. Russell seconded, the adoption of the proposed change in the Fourth Term of Communion. Mr. Savage moved, as an amendment, that the change be not adopted, and this was seconded by Mr. Lillie. After lengthened discussion, the motion and amendment were put to the vote, when the motion was carried by a majority of 24 to 0. The Term, as thus amended, stands henceforth as follows, viz.:—After the words, "And in consistency with this," the words that succeed shall be, "The obligation arising from the renovation of these Covenants by the Reformed Presbyterian Church."

Mr. Sweeny desired his dissent to be recorded.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION IV.

Wednesday Morning, 11 *o'clock.*

Synod resumed, devotional exercises being conducted by the Rev. W. Anderson.

XXI. The Rev. John Stott, Moderator of the Reformed Presbyterian Synod in the United States of North America, was present, and submitted a commission as a delegate to this Synod. Mr. Joseph M'Quaker, the remaining member of the deputation from Scotland, was also present. Both were invited to a seat in Court.

XXII. The Secretary of the Home Mission and Ministerial Support Scheme submitted the Annual Report. Mr. Smyth moved, seconded by Mr. Thomas Hart, that the Report now read be adopted and published as usual. This was agreed to, *nem. diss.*

(*For this, and Reports of the other Schemes, see* COVENANTER, *July*, 1865.)

XXIII. An application was made on behalf of the congregation of Manchester for a grant from the Fund, so as to enable them to give a call to some one to be their minister. Mr. Alexander Byers appeared, and tabled a Commission authorizing him to represent them at Synod. He was heard in relation to the state of the congregation, and their wishes. It was agreed that, in the event of their obtaining a minister, they should have a grant from the Fund of £40 for the first year, £30 for the second, £20 for the third, and £10 for the fourth, on condition that the congregation raise at least £80 of stipend the first year, and take up all the collections ordered by Synod.

XXIV. A memorial was presented from the congregation of Dublin, containing a request similar to that put forward on behalf of Manchester. Mr. Paul Kirk was commissioned to support the prayer of the memorial, and was heard in reference to it. It was agreed to make an additional grant to Dublin of £10 annually—£20 in all—on condition that the congregation contribute £5 additional for preaching, and that the Southern Presbytery supply them half time.

XXV. Memorials from Newry, dated July 28th and 13th October, 1864, addressed to the Commission, and asking a continuance of the former grant, were laid on the table. Commission referred these *simpliciter* to Synod.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION V.

Wednesday Evening, 6 o'clock.

Synod resumed the consideration of the memorials from Newry. It was resolved, in relation to them, that a grant be made to the Newry congregation for the ensuing year, of £25, in hope that, by the end of that time, if not sooner, certain funds expected to accrue from congregational property will have become available.

XXVI. Mr. Toland introduced the deputation from the Synod in Scotland. Messrs. Wallace and Anderson addressed Synod at some length, and Mr. M'Quaker in a few words, after which the following resolution was moved by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Newell, and passed unanimously, viz. :—

"That this Synod has heard with the liveliest satisfaction the addresses of the brethren whose presence we have enjoyed on this occasion, as a Deputation from our Sister Church in Scotland. We rejoice that these addresses not only display, on the part of our brethren there, unabated attachment to the principles of our Covenanted Testimony, in the noble struggle in which they are engaged, but evidence that the interest of the two Churches in each other is, from year to year, steadily increasing; and that our fraternal intercourse hitherto has been productive of the most happy effects."

The Moderator, in suitable terms, conveyed the thanks of Synod to the members of the deputation for their admirable addresses.

The Synod, cordially sympathizing with the brethren in Scotland, hereby renew their recommendation to all the Ministers and Presbyteries of this Church to render all the aid in their power in giving supply of the preaching of the Gospel in that land.

Dr. Houston and Mr. Kennedy, Ministers, with Mr. John Hewitt, (Mr. John Simms, *alternate*,) Ruling Elder, were appointed a Deputation to the Synod of Scotland, to meet in Glasgow on the Tuesday after the first Sabbath of June, 1866.

XXVII. Professor Willson and the Rev. J. Stott addressed Synod, communicating much interesting information respecting affairs in the United States. The Moderator conveyed the thanks of Synod to the delegates; and the following, on the motion of Dr. Houston, seconded by Mr. Chancellor, was ordered to be recorded, viz. :—

"That this Synod have had peculiar gratification in welcoming to their present meeting, as a Deputation from the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in the United States, Rev. Professor Willson and the Rev. John Stott, and have heard with the deepest interest their statements respecting the position, missionary labours at home and abroad, trials and progress of the Church in America. This Synod, therefore, while rendering thanks to the great Head of the Church for the support which He has been pleased to vouchsafe to our brethren in their efforts to advance the cause of our fathers' testimony, rejoice in the continued unity and prosperity of the Church in America, and would express their most cordial sympathy with beloved brethren there, in all their trials, and in their exertions for maintaining and advancing the cause and kingdom of Christ.

"We rejoice, moreover, that they have been led, through the call of solemn and wonderful providences, to engage in the important undertaking of extending the blessings of Scriptural education, and religious instruction to the liberated African race in the United States, and recommend to the people under their care to render all the aid in their power for the furtherance of this valuable mission."

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION VI.

Thursday morning, 10 *o'clock.*

Synod resumed, devotional exercises being conducted by Rev. John Stott.

XXVIII. Reports of Presbyteries were called for, and submitted as follows, viz. :—

I.—FROM THE NORTHERN PRESBYTERY.

THE NORTHERN PRESBYTERY REPORT that, on the 4th of December last, the Rev. Doctor Stavely, our revered co-presbyter, and the father of this Synod, deceased, and entered, as we doubt not, into the rest and reward which await those who turn many to righteousness. During a laborious and most acceptable pastorate of nearly sixty years, he was privileged to preach the Gospel of the grace of God; and, often in troublous times, to maintain his position as a covenanted witness, with great calmness and courtesy, and with that consideration for others which so eminently characterized him. As a preacher, he was distinguished by orderly arrangement of his matter, by perspicuous statement of doctrine, by precision and elegance of language, and by a grace and dignity and stateliness of manner seldom surpassed. In our church courts he was uniformly signalized by mildness and moderation; and, though in conflicts with brethren who, in the judgment of Synod, were pursuing courses which tended to unsettle the Church's testimony, he declined taking, as his talents justified, a very prominent part; yet his counsel and co-operation, and public vote, were always given on the side of a faithful adherence to the whole work of the Covenanted Reformation. Presbytery have placed on their minutes a record of the love and esteem wherewith he was regarded, and of their high estimate of the services which, throughout his lengthened ministry, he was enabled to render to the cause of truth and righteousness in the land.

Presbytery have also to report that Mr. James Kennedy, a talented, devoted, and most promising student of the first year, was, on the 19th of August last, removed by death. Servants of Christ in the ministry and those in course of preparation for ministerial work, are thus reminded of their mortality, and called on to "occupy" till the Lord come.

Since last report was submitted, Presbytery have held five meetings, in all of which the utmost harmony prevailed. Synod's appointments with regard to humiliation and thanksgiving, and public collections have all been observed, and some evidence, we trust, of Divine acceptance vouchsafed.

In accordance with Synod's instructions, Messrs. Robert Dunlop and Charles K. Toland were taken under trial; and, after giving full satisfaction to the court, they were, on the 15th of February last, licensed to preach the everlasting Gospel. They have since been labouring in various parts of the Church, and they are now at Synod's disposal.

Presbytery recommend to Synod, for final examination, Messrs. Joseph Hamilton, Robert Fulton, Torrens Boyd, and John M'Keown. Mr. Hamilton, for reasons which will be submitted, has had assigned him, extrajudicially, some pieces of trial. These have been sustained.

subject to the approval of Synod. Under Presbytery's care, there are, besides the students already mentioned, Messrs. James Dick, of the fourth year; and Nevin Woodside, and James Kerr, of the third year.

JAMES A. SMYTH, *Moderator.*
WILLIAM TOLAND, *Clerk.*

II.—FROM THE SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY.

THE SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY REPORT that, since last Synod they have held five regular meetings, and one *pro-re-nata*. These have been well attended both by Ministers and Elders, and have been characterized by uninterrupted peace and brotherly love.

Nothing has occurred, in any of the congregations of which they have the oversight, that has required the interference of Presbytery.

Gospel ordinances continue to be dispensed to the people under their care with regularity. Such supplies of preaching as the circumstances of the Presbytery permitted, have been sent to the Missionary Stations of Dublin, Dromore, and Lisdonnan.

The few members at Dromore have had the Lord's Supper dispensed lately among them. Presbytery cherish the hope that this station, which is the first within their bounds where the standard for a Covenanted Testimony was set up, may still have a few to uphold that standard, although, owing to emigration and other causes, their numbers are considerably less than they were some years ago.

On the 21st of June the Rev. Thomas C. Britton was ordained to the office of the Holy Ministry, and the pastoral charge of the congregation of Newry. This settlement appears to give the greatest satisfaction to all the parties concerned. The congregation, though small, have shown a liberality worthy of commendation. The earnest desire of Presbytery is, that their young brother may be long spared to labour in the important sphere of duty assigned to him. Presbytery rejoice in this settlement, and desire to express their gratitude to the Head of the Church, that they have now a stated Pastor in each of the congregations within their bounds.

The students under the care of Presbytery are Messrs. James M. Carlile and Joseph Cromie, of the 3rd year, and Mr. Isaac Thompson, of the 1st year.

THOMAS DICK, *Moderator.*
GEORGE LILLIE, *Clerk.*

III.—FROM THE EASTERN PRESBYTERY.

THE EASTERN PRESBYTERY REPORT that, since last meeting of Synod they have held seven meetings, three of them *special*, all characterized by mutual confidence, cordiality, and unanimity.

The ordinances of religious worship have been regularly dispensed to all the congregations under our care. On account of the scarcity of labourers, ministers have been oftener than is desirable absent from their pulpits, and some of our stations have had less preaching than usual, and were sometimes subjected to disappointments.

The Sacrament of our Lord's Supper has been dispensed twice in the congregations having a settled ministry, and once in each of our vacant congregations in Ireland.

The appointments of Synod have been attended to; days of humiliation and thanksgiving have been observed; and the collections for the several schemes of the Church have been taken up. The people show no falling away in their attachment to the principles of the Church's testimony, and a desire to exemplify it practically.

Some attention has been given to the subject of the Aged Ministers' Fund. A bursary has been raised by the Presbytery available for the ensuing Hall. The measure adopted at last Synod, in reference to Manchester, then in a condition of great discouragement, has been carried out pretty fully, and attended with happy results. A new stipend list has been prepared, creditable to the members.

A unanimous Call having been addressed by the congregation of Belfast to the Rev. Josias A. Chancellor, Minister of the Bready Congregation, and we having received the necessary certification from the Western Presbytery of his acceptance of said Call, and his formal disannexion from the Bready Congregation, on the 9th of February, he was installed by us to the pastoral charge of the congregation of Belfast. This accession to the Presbytery of a minister of ability and piety, we regard as most seasonable, and as laying us under special obligation to thankfulness to Him who holds the stars in his right hand, and walks in the midst of the golden candlesticks.

Presbytery has under its care the following Students in Arts:—Messrs. Thomas Houston, A.M., William Mayben, and James Martin.

JOSIAS A. CHANCELLOR, *Moderator.*
WILLIAM RUSSELL, *Clerk.*

IV.—FROM THE WESTERN PRESBYTERY.

THE WESTERN PRESBYTERY REPORT that, during the past year, they have held seven meetings—one of these being for visitation of the Faughan congregation, and one, *pro re nata*—all characterized by the greatest unanimity.

Ordinances have been dispensed with regularity in the several congregations within the bounds of Presbytery, and the people have contributed to the various schemes of the Church with accustomed liberality.

At the meeting held on the 6th December, a Call from the congregation of Belfast to the Rev. J. A. Chancellor, transmitted by the Eastern Presbytery, and certified to have been sustained by them as a regular Gospel Call, was received. Parties having been noticed to appear at the ensuing meeting on the 3rd of January, and having been heard, Presbytery decided to present the Call. This was accordingly done by the Moderator, when Mr. Chancellor signified his acceptance. The Moderator thereupon proceeded to dissolve the pastoral relation which had subsisted between Mr. Chancellor and the Bready congregation, and the Eastern Presbytery was officially advised of the action taken in the premises. A most excellent spirit has been manifested by the Bready people in relation to this matter. Although most strongly attached to Mr. Chancellor, and desirous of the continuance of his labours amongst them, they have exhibited nothing like a petulant disposition, but submitted to the decisions come to as Christians should. Presbytery regret, for the sake of Bready congregation, and for their own sake, the severance of the ties formerly existing in this case; but they rejoice that, in the providence of the Church's Head, their brother has been settled in such an important sphere of usefulness, where there will be such scope afforded for the exercise of his pre-eminent talents.

On the 2nd of May the congregation of Convoy petitioned for a Moderation. This was granted, and a Moderation in a Call took place there on the 29th of May. The Call issued unanimously in favour of Mr. Robert Dunlop. It has been presented to him, and he has asked some time for deliberation before coming to a decision, which, for the reasons assigned, has been conceded.

The Bready congregation also having sought a Moderation, this was granted, and took place on the 19th of the present month. A Call was issued in favour of Mr. T. C. Britton, and Mr. Britton had notification of the result sent to him as soon as it was possible. There has not been time to take any further action in regard to this matter.

The Students under Presbytery's care are Mr. James Torrens and Mr. Robert Macfarlane.

J. P. SWEENY, *Moderator.*
R. NEVIN, *Clerk.*

V.—FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA.

THE PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA REPORT that two meetings have been held during the year; that the Apostolic injunction, "Be of one mind," has not been violated; and that *striving together* has been the ruling principle in all our efforts to lengthen the cords and strengthen the stakes of this part of our Zion.

The ordinances of religion have been regularly observed; and, whilst there is not manifested on the part of some that hearty appreciation and improvement of Gospel privileges which we could desire, our members generally are walking, so far as we can judge, consistently with their vocation, and adorning their solemn profession.

No material change has taken place as to our numerical strength since last Synodical meeting. Though we have been called to mourn the removal by death of some of our most devoted and exemplary members, we have reason to bless the Head of the Church that, in fulfilment of the encouraging assurance that He will never leave Himself without a witness, the hearts of others have been opened to receive the truth, and to profess His name before men.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper has been twice dispensed in each of the congregations enjoying a settled ministry, and once in Littleton, a promising mission station in Maine, U.S. The days of humiliation and thanksgiving have also been generally observed, in accordance with the appointment of Synod. The various remote stations have received a supply of preaching with as much regularity as our time and limited means enabled us to furnish.

ROBERT STEWART, *Moderator.*
A. M'LEOD STAVELY, *Clerk, pro. tem.*

Wilmot, N.S., May 9, 1865.

XXIX. It was agreed to remit the young men recommended to Synod in the Report of the Northern Presbytery for general examination in order to license, to the Committee of Superintendence of the Theological Hall, as last year.

Attention was called to the requirement in the "Plan of Education for Candidates for the Ministry, as revised and sanctioned by Synod in 1859, to the following effect, viz. :— "Henceforward a Literary Degree, either of A.B. or A.M., shall be regarded as necessary to be possessed by the Student, either before entering upon the study of Theology, or prior to the completion of the Theological course." It was resolved that this should be enforced for the future.

XXX. A memorial addressed to Commission from the congregation of Ballylane, praying that the annual grant to them from the Home Mission Fund should be doubled, recommended by the Southern Presbytery, and referred by Commission *simpliciter* to Synod, was brought forward. This was

referred back to the favourable consideration of the Commission, so far as the state of the funds will admit.

XXXI. A memorial from Killinchy for a grant from the Home Mission Fund, to enable them to obtain a minister, addressed to the Eastern Presbytery, came up also through Commission. This was referred in same way as last.

XXXII. The suggestions contained in the Home Mission Report were referred to the Commission, to take some order in relation to them, and to report progress to Synod at next meeting.

XXXIII. Dr. Houston reported, on behalf of the Committee on the Historical Testimony, that all the changes ordered by Synod had been carefully made, and that the Draft was now ready to be adopted in overture, if Synod should see fit.

It was unanimously agreed that it be now adopted in overture, and that it be re-committed to the same Committee, to have it reprinted, as amended, and sent down to Sessions, not later than the month of October next. And Sessions are hereby enjoined to give to this important matter their earliest and most diligent consideration, and to send up *written* reports, containing whatever emendations they may consider necessary, to next meeting of Synod.

XXXIV. The Annual Report of the Colonial Mission was submitted by the Secretary. Its adoption was moved by Dr. Houston, seconded by Mr. John Hart, and unanimously agreed to; as was also the following resolution, viz. :—

"That this Synod have heard with interest the statements contained in the Colonial Mission Report, rejoice in the encouragement and support vouchsafed by their Master to our Missionaries in the Colonies, in their arduous labours, and strongly recommend to the people under their care to furnish enlarged contributions to the funds of the Mission."

It was agreed that £10, or more, as the funds may admit, should be sent to Mr. Moore, in Australia.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION VII.

Thursday evening, 5 o'clock.

Synod met and resumed.

XXXV. Resolved, that, at future meetings of Synod, the rule of Court shall be strictly enforced, namely, that no member shall be permitted to absent himself from the sittings, without first asking and obtaining leave from the Moderator.

XXXVI. The Jewish Mission Report was submitted. In connection with it, an extract minute of the proceedings of the Synod in Scotland was put in and read, as following :—

"The following resolution was unanimously adopted, viz. :—That this Synod, considering the obligation devolving on the Church both to hold fast and hold forth the truth, to maintain the testimony of Jesus, and make known His salvation to all nations, lament that the paucity of their number and the limited nature of their resources preclude the possibility of their engaging in either a Jewish or Foreign Mission by themselves; and agree to instruct the deputation to be hereafter appointed to visit the sister Church in Ireland, to bring under the notice of the Synod of that Church, at its first annual meeting, the desirableness of mutual co-operation in these matters, so that, as soon as the Head of the Church may vouchsafe to us the opportunity, something may be done for the evangelization of the benighted Heathen, and the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

"Extracted from minutes of R. P. Scotland, Session II, June 7th, 1865, by

"DAVID HENDERSON, *Synod Clerk.*"

Mr. Savage moved, and Dr. Newell seconded, the adoption of the Report, which was unanimously agreed to.

Resolved, that the sum of £20 be sent to Dr. Cunningham, Missionary to the Jews in London, in acknowledgment of his unwearying labours among the descendants of God's ancient people. But this Synod wish it to be distinctly understood that, while manifesting so far our good will to him as a Missionary, we do not express any approbation of or sympathy with Dr. Cunningham in the peculiar ecclesiastical position which he seems to have assumed.

Synod regard with peculiar favour the communication contained in the extract minute of the proceedings of the Scottish Synod, and remit to the Commission to correspond with the Scottish brethren on the subject.

XXXVII. The Irish Mission Report was read. Dr. Houston moved, and Professor Dick seconded, that it be adopted and published, which was agreed to.

The time arranged for public worship having arrived, Mr. Simms conducted the exercises, delivering a discourse from Ezekiel xvii. 22—24.

XXXVIII. The following Scale of Preachers' Appointments was made out, viz. :—

	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
Rev. R. Allen,	W.	E.	S.	N.	W.	E.	S.	N.
Mr. Dunlop,	E.	N.W.	N.	S.	E.	W.	N.	S.
Mr. C. K. Toland,	Scotland	S.	W.	E.	S.	N.	W.	E.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION VIII.

Friday Morning, 10 *o'clock.*

Synod resumed, devotional exercises being conducted by Mr. M'Quaker.

XXXIX. It was agreed to make the like grant to the Syrian Mission of the American Church as had been made in each of the last two years, viz., one year's interest of the Bicentenary Fund.

XL. The Report of the Theological Hall was read. Mr. Simms moved, and Mr. Toland seconded its adoption, which was agreed to.

It was resolved, that Ministers be earnestly requested to impress upon their respective congregations the importance of this department of the Church's machinery, and the necessity for increased liberality in supporting it. Synod enjoined upon congregations punctuality in taking up the collections for this and the other schemes, on the day indicated in the circular, or as near to it as possible, and in sending them forward without delay to the Secretary.

The Committee of Superintendence of the Hall was appointed, consisting of the same members as last year, with Mr. Chancellor added.

The Hall was appointed to be opened on Wednesday, the 2nd of August.

XLI. The Commission was appointed, consisting of the same members as last year.

XLII. The subject of National Education was deferred, with the understanding that a matured report be asked from the Committee at an early period of the proceedings next year, Professor Dick's name being added to the Committee.

XLIII. The Committee on Causes of Thanksgiving and Fasting submitted a Summary, which was adopted as follows, viz. :—

CAUSES OF THANKSGIVING.

1. The continuance of those temporal mercies, which have been justly forfeited by our sin, and in the receipt of which, we are called upon to acknowledge with gratitude the covenant-keeping faithfulness of our God. This season has been very favourable, genial, and promising, compared with late years, and calls for thanksgiving to Him by whom the year is blessed.

2. The blessings of a preached Gospel, and the dispensation of ordinances in our respective congregations, and in the land in which we dwell, together with the spread of the knowledge of the glory of God in the world at large.

3. The unity and harmony that still prevail in our congregations and in the courts of Christ's house, and the evident attachment to the principles of a Covenanted Reformation and becoming faithfulness, manifest in the maintenance and defence of these, among our brethren in this land, and in the Sister Churches in Scotland and America. We desire likewise to acknowledge God's great goodness in sustaining our Ministers and Missionaries in their fields of labour in health and vigour, and we would pray for its continuance.

4. The continued peace and prosperity of Great Britain, and the civil and religious liberty very largely enjoyed throughout the Empire. The cessation of hostilities in the United States, and the many beneficial effects that, in the providence of God, have followed,, especially the liberation of so large a number of Slaves.

5. The providential indications of progress towards the fulfilment of the cheering hope held out to the Church and to the world in the Word of God, that He will arise and plead His own cause, and that the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ.

CAUSES OF FASTING.

1. The prevalence of formality, error, and delusion in several of the Protestant Churches, and the want of that enlarged liberality which is necessary for the support and diffusion of the Gospel.

2. The desecration of the holy Sabbath by the running of Railway Trains that day; by postal arrangements for the reception and distribution of letters thereon; and by the printing of secular newspapers on a portion of the day of sacred rest, as well as the circulation and reading of others which are published specially for the Sabbath—all of which deplorable evils are to some extent countenanced and encouraged by professing Christians to the disgrace of religion.

3. The habits of intemperance and uncleanness which are found in all ranks and classes of society in town and country, to the dishonour of religion, the destruction of the peace and happiness of families, and the ruin of the souls and bodies of multitudes.

4. The growing influence of Popery upon the higher classes of society in these lands, and the spread of both Infidelity and Popery in the Church of England—evils which have not been, and cannot be properly remedied, as matters exist in that establishment. It is painful and humbling also to observe how men of Evangelical sentiments continue within its pale, instead of coming out and being separate. It is evident that this nation and the Churches therein have planted the rod that will certainly grow for their punishment—the sin of defection from Covenanted attainments is finding them out, and, unless they return and repent like the Jews of old, their punishment will be great indeed.

5. The evident godlessness and immorality of the civil governments of the present day; their shameful disregard of the Bible—the guide-book of nations; and their prolonged rebellion against the claims of the reigning Mediator.

6. The absence, on the part of this nation, of the proper signs of repentance and return to God, from whom it has deeply revolted, and its continuance in a covenant-breaking and backsliding course, to the utter neglect of solemn Covenant engagement with God.

7. The continued defection and downward tendency, as seen in their negociations for union, of those who were once one with us, in witnessing for the royal rights and prerogatives of Messiah, and the lukewarmness even among ourselves, in some respects, in relation to the precious truths embraced in the "testimony of Jesus," and sealed by the blood of martyrs.

The same days as formerly were appointed to be observed, viz.—the last Thursday of November, as a day of thanksgiving, and the last Thursday of January, 1866, as a day of fasting.

Messrs. Kennedy and Nevin were appointed to prepare the summary for next year.

XLIV. Dr. Houston, Mr. Kennedy, and Mr. Chancellor were appointed a Committee to prepare a report on some prevailing social evils, to be presented at next meeting of Synod—Dr. Houston, Convener.

At 3 o'clock, p.m., the Synod stood finally adjourned, with devotional exercises, conducted by the Rev. Dr. Stevenson, at the request of the Moderator, till Monday, 25th June, 1866.

Extracted by

ROBERT NEVIN, *Synod Clerk.*

Londonderry, July, 1865.

APPENDIX—No. I.

SYNODICAL OFFICERS.

Moderator.

Rev. GAWIN DOUGLAS, Ballybay.

Clerk.

Rev. ROBERT NEVIN, Londonderry.

General Treasurer.

Mr. SAMUEL CLUGSTON, Antrim.

Professors.

SYSTEMATIC DIVINITY.—Rev. James Dick, A.M., Ballymena.

PASTORAL THEOLOGY, CHURCH HISTORY, SCRIPTURE CRITICISM, AN HEBREW.—Rev. Thomas Houston, D.D., Knockbracken, Belfast.

Trustees of Synod's Funds.

Rev. R. NEVIN, Londonderry. Mr. SAMUEL CLUGSTON, Antrim.

Trustees of Aged Ministers' Fund.

Rev. Dr. Houston, Knockbracken.
Rev. James Kennedy, Newtownlimavady.
Rev. R. Nevin, (Interim Treasurer.)
Rev. A. Savage, Ballenon.
Mr. Joseph Clarke, Londonderry.
Mr. Peter Reynolds, Belfast.
Mr. Thomas Henry, Castleblayney.

Administrators of Education Fund.

Rev. Dr. Houston, Convener.	Rev. R. Nevin.
Rev. A. Savage.	Rev. W. Toland.

Secretaries of the Schemes of the Church.

HOME MISSION.—Rev. J. A. Chancellor, Belfast.

COLONIAL MISSION.—Rev. John Newell, D.D., Newtownards.

IRISH MISSION.—Rev. William Russell, Ballyclare.

JEWISH MISSION.—Rev. Thomas Houston, D.D., Knockbracken.

THEOLOGICAL HALL.—Rev. Robert Nevin, Londonderry.

N.B.—These Secteraries act also as Treasurers for their respective schemes.

The Commission.

The Moderator.	Rev. A. Savage.
Rev. Professor Dick.	,, Dr. Houston.
,, John Hart.	,, Dr. Newell, Clerk.
,, R. Nevin.	Mr. Samuel Clugston.
,, J. A. Chancellor.	,, Joseph Clarke.
,, William Russell.	,, James Reynolds.
,, J. P. Sweeny.	,, Thomas Galway.

COMMITTEES OF SYNOD.

General Committee of Aged Ministers' Fund.

Rev. Dr. Houston, Convener.	Mr. Samuel Clugston.
,, R. Nevin, Interim Treasurer.	,, James Reynolds.
,, John Hart.	,, Joseph Clarke.
,, Alexander Savage.	,, Thomas Henry.

Committee on Historical Testimony.

Rev. Dr. Houston, Convener.	Rev. William Russell.
,, Professor Dick.	,, J. A. Chancellor.

Committee of Superintendence of Theological Hall.

Rev. R. Nevin, Convener.	Rev. J. P. Sweeny.
,, William Russell.	,, Gawin Douglas.
,, William Toland.	,, J. A. Chancellor.

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL EDUCATION.

Rev. W. Russell, Convener. | Rev. J. A. Chancellor.
Rev. Professor Dick.

COMMITTEE ON CAUSES OF THANKSGIVING AND FASTING.

Rev. R. Nevin, Convener. | Rev. James Kennedy.

COMMITTEE ON CODE OF DISCIPLINE.

Rev. Professor Dick, Convener. | Rev. R. Nevin.
,, Professor Houston. | Mr. James Torrens.
,, S. Simms. |

DEPUTATION TO R. P. SYNOD OF SCOTLAND.

Rev. Dr. Houston. | Mr. John Hewitt.
,, J. Kennedy. | Alternate, Mr. John Simms.

SYNODICAL APPOINTMENTS.

Theological Hall opens in Belfast,....On Wednesday, 2nd Aug., 1865.

The Commission meets in Belfast, on the Thursday after the second Sabbath in October, January, and April, viz.:—12th October, 1865; 18th January, 1866; 12th April, 1866; and during the annual meeting of Synod in June.

Day of Public Thanksgiving,.....Thursday, 30th Nov., 1865.

Day of Public Fasting.....Thursday, 25th Jan., 1866.

Annual Meeting of Synod, at Belfast,—Monday, 25th June, 1866, at Seven o'clock, P.M.

MEETINGS OF PRESBYTERIES.

NORTHERN.—As occasion requires.
SOUTHERN.—First *Tuesday* in February, May, August, and November.
EASTERN.—First *Wednesday* in February, May, August, and November.
WESTERN.—First *Tuesday* in February, May, August, and November.
NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA.—As occasion requires.

APPENDIX, No. II.

TERMS OF MINISTERIAL AND CHRISTIAN COMMUNION IN THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF IRELAND.

I. The acknowledgment of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and the alone infallible rule of faith and practice.

II. The acknowledgment of the Westminster Confession of Faith, and Catechisms, Larger and Shorter, to be founded upon, and agreeable to, the Word of God.

III. The owning of the Divine Right and Original of Presbyterian Church Government.

IV. The acknowledgment of the perpetual obligation of our Covenants, National, and Solemn League; and, in consistency with this, the obligation arising from the renovation of these Covenants by the Reformed Presbyterian Church.

V. The owning of all the Scriptural Testimonies and earnest contendings of Christ's faithful witnesses, whether martyrs under the last persecution, or such as have succeeded them in maintaining the same cause, and especially of the *Testimony* of the Reformed Presbyterian Church.

VI. Practically adorning the doctrine of God, our Saviour, by walking in all His commandments and ordinances blamelessly,